

Amendments to the Claims:

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A method executable by a computer having a storage device for improving scene classification of a sequence of digital images comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~providing~~ storing a sequence of images captured in temporal succession in the storage device of the computer, at least two pairs of consecutive images in the sequence of images having different elapsed times between their capture;

(b) classifying each of the stored sequence of captured images individually based on information contained in the individual image to generate an initial content-based image classification for each of the images;

(c) generating a final image classification for each image based at least on the respective initial content-based image classification and a pre-determined temporal context model that considers at least the temporal succession of the sequence of images; and

(d) storing the final image classifications ~~in a computer readable~~ the storage-medium device.

2. (*Currently Amended*) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information used in the step (b) includes pixel information.

3. (*Currently Amended*) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information used in the step (b) includes capture-device-generated metadata information.

4. (*Currently Amended*) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pre-determined temporal context model in the step (c) is independent of elapsed time between consecutive images.

5. (*Currently Amended*) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pre-determined temporal context model in the step (c) is dependent on elapsed time between consecutive images in the sequence.

6. (*Currently Amended*) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pre-determined temporal context model is a causal Hidden Markov Model dependent on a previous image.

7. (*Cancelled*)

8. (*Currently Amended*) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pre-determined temporal context model is a non-casual model dependent on both a previous image and a subsequent image.

9. (*Cancelled*)

10. (*Currently Amended*) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temporal context model is imposed using Viterbi algorithm.

11. (*Currently Amended*) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temporal context model is imposed using a belief propagation algorithm.

12. (*Currently Amended*) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pre-determined temporal context model in the step (c) is dependent on elapsed time between consecutive images in the sequence, such that different elapsed times between a particular pair of consecutive images produces a different ~~revised~~ final image classification for a later-captured image of the particular pair of consecutive images.